

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 8-12 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as previously presented and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

The examiner has accepted the drawing changes proposed by the applicant's last paper. Please replace the drawings presently in the application with the attached five sheets of replacement drawings.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Finn et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 4,540,197). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to distinguish over Finn in that the composite spring of the applicants' invention has a sinusoidal neutral axis in a free state transversely spanning said vehicle frame members between parallel wheel assemblies. By comparison, while Finn discloses a suspension system having longitudinally extending vehicle frame members and a composite spring with two ends, Finn fails to disclose a spring with a sinusoidal neutral axis in a free state. Rather, Fig 5 of Finn shows a spring 48 having a simple curved neutral axis in a free state (in the response filed 3/12/03, applicant misinterpreted Finn's Fig. 5 as showing a spring having a linear neutral axis. Applicant now retracts the misinterpretation and appreciates that Finn shows a spring having free state shape as shown by the dashed outline in Fig. 5.) It is not until the spring 48 is asymmetrically loaded in Fig. 7 that it assumes a sinuous curvature (see Finn col. 6, lines 4-

7). Therefore, the applicant's amended claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from that shown in Finn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusaka et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 5,251,930) in view of Finn et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Again, while Kusaka may disclose a suspension system having a spring transversely spanning vehicle frame members and between the parallel wheel assemblies, neither Kusaka nor Finn disclose the applicants' claimed composite spring having a *sinusoidal neutral axis in a free state*. As discussed in the response to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) section above, the spring shown in Fig. 7 of Finn is asymmetrically loaded - it is not "free state" as claimed by the applicants.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 which the applicant believes in now in condition for allowance. Consequently, applicants believe the remaining claims are now also in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Furthermore, applicant believes that the amended do not claims do not raise new issues of patentability since the examiner, in response to the applicant's arguments of 3/12/03, has considered the issue of whether the applicant's spring is claimed in a free state. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully

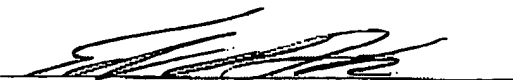
requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 944-6526.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

8/20/03

By:



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